

January 31, 2010

From:
Skip H. Short
900 Mix Ave. #29
Hamden, CT 06514
203-407-1962

To:
Paul Stacey
Bureau of Water Protection, DEP
79 Elm St.
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Comment on Proposed Stream Flow Regulations

Dear Mr. Stacey:

I am a canoeist and kayaker who has enjoyed many outings on the rivers and streams of Connecticut. I believe that our state's utilitarian needs for water should be balanced with the goal of preserving and enhancing the quality of our natural environment. I am also a member of the Quinnipiac River Watershed Association

I'm writing to support the new stream flow regulations being proposed by your department. In a state with 45 inches of rain annually, there is plenty of water for all, as long as we have proper and appropriate management. The draft regulations are reasonable and science-based. They were written by committees of stakeholders during a 4 year process. They provide a structure for balancing the needs of all river and stream stakeholders, including the natural environment.

I do have one concern. Class 4, as it is drafted, has the potential to allow some rivers or portions of rivers to be written off as unsalvageable. The draft regulations include no standards for keeping Class 4 streams alive. There is no language saying what level of ecological health should be maintained in those streams. Class 4 should be eliminated or changed by adding qualifying language so that every stream in the state will have some level of protection.

Yours truly,



Skip Short

BUREAU OF WATER PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

FEB 03 2010





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